

Appl. No. 10/805,970

Amdt. Dated October 12, 2005

Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A folding machine comprising:

a housing having a first fold plate and a second fold plate, each permanently attached to the housing and forming an upper opening;

a processing area including a first removable plate attached and substantially parallel to the first fold plate and forming a first work area therebetween between the first removable plate and the first fold plate and a second removable plate attached and substantially parallel to the second fold plate and forming a second work area therebetween between the second removable plate and the second fold plate, each removable plate disposed in the housing and accessible through the upper opening for removal by a quick-coupling mechanism;

a paper input area adjacent the first removable plate;

a feeding mechanism for feeding paper sheets from the paper input area to the processing area and at least one of the first and second work area and providing processed sheets; and

a paper output area adjacent the second removable plate for outputting the processed sheets.

2. (Previously Presented) The folding machine of claim 1 wherein the processing area further includes a split table having the first fold plate and second fold plate welded to the housing and the first removable plate is removably attached to the first fold plate by a first quick coupling mechanism and the second removable plate is removably attached to the second fold plate by a second quick coupling mechanism.

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3. (Previously presented) The folding machine of claim 1 wherein the quick-coupling mechanism includes an attachment lever for attaching the first removable plate to the first fold plate and providing removal of the removable plate via a two-step removal process by moving the attachment lever to an unlocked condition and removing the removable plate.
4. (Previously Presented) The folding machine of claim 3 wherein the attachment lever includes an expander received in an aperture of the first fold plate.
5. (Original) The folding machine of claim 2 wherein the feeding mechanism includes a main roller mounted at a vertex formed by the split table that is formed generally in a V-shape.
6. (Original) The folding machine of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second fold plates includes a paper stop that provides for processing of paper sheets received therein.
7. (Original) The folding machine of claim 6 wherein at least one of the first and second removable plates includes paper size indicia.
8. (Original) The folding machine of claim 7 wherein at least one of the first and second removable plates include type of fold indicia.
9. (Original) The folding machine of claim 8 wherein the paper stop includes an adjuster.
10. (Original) The folding machine of claim 9 wherein the adjuster provides for adjustment of the paper stop according to the type of fold indicia and/or paper size indicia provided by the fold plate.
11. (Original) The folding machine of claim 9 wherein the paper stop may be adjusted to provide for a fold including one of a C-type, D-type, G-type or Z-type fold.

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12. (Original) The folding machine of claim 6 wherein each of the paper stops includes adjusters protruding perpendicularly therefrom and the adjusters provide for adjustment of paper size or fold type processed by the paper stop.

13. (Original) The folding machine of claim 12 wherein the adjusters are slidingly mounted within slots respectively formed in the first and second fold plates.

14. (Original) The folding machine of claim 8 further comprising an indicia indicator attached to the paper stop that indicates the position and processing that the paper stop will perform as identified by the positioning of the indicia indicator adjacent the type of fold or paper size indicia provided on the first or second removable plates.

15. (Original) The folding machine of claim 6 wherein the paper stop includes a rigid finger including a stop surface against which a paper sheet abuts in order to commence the folding of the paper sheet.

16. (Original) The folding machine of claim 1 wherein the first removable plate includes a first slot and the first fold plate includes a second slot and the first and second slots are aligned with each other and each of the adjusters are received through each of the first and second slots.

17. (Currently Amended) A paper folding machine comprising:
a housing;
a lower fold plate disposed within the housing, the lower fold plate providing a work area;
a paper stop adjustably mounted to the lower fold plate;
an adjuster connected to the paper stop for adjusting the position of the paper stop;

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an upper plate removably mounted and substantially parallel to the lower fold plate and forming the work area ~~therebetween~~ between the upper plate and lower fold plate so that the upper plate may be removed while the lower fold plate remains disposed within the housing, the upper plate partially enclosing the work area and having a slot for receiving the adjuster therethrough;

a roller for advancing a paper sheet into the work area and the paper sheet contacting the fold plate in order to fold the paper; and

an output area for receiving the folded paper.

18. (Original) The folding machine of claim 17 further comprising an attachment lever on the upper plate for attaching the upper plate to the lower fold plate and providing for the upper plate to be easily removed without requiring disassembly of the adjuster or paper stop.

19. (Original) The folding machine of claim 18 wherein the slot is arranged vertically along the upper plate.

20. (Original) The folding machine of claim 18 further comprising fold indicia provided on the upper plate adjacent the slot in order to identify the positioning of the adjuster.

21. (Original) The following machine of claim 18 further comprising a split table having a first side and a second side wherein the first side includes a first lower fold plate and a first upper plate mounted thereto and the second side includes a second lower fold plate and a second upper plate mounted thereto.

22. (Original) The following machine of claim 21 further comprising a central roller disposed between the lower fold plate and the secondary lower fold plate for feeding paper between the first side and second side of the split table.

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23. (Original) The folding machine of claim 21 further comprising an input table adjacent the first side and an output table adjacent the second side.

24. (Original) The folding machine of claim 17 further comprising a stacking arm attached to the housing for assisting in the stacking of folded paper sheets output from the machine and the stacking arm automatically positioned with respect to adjustment of the paper stop.

25. (Original) The folding machine of claim 17 further comprising a replaceable cartridge mounted within the folding machine for processing paper sheets from the machine.